

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A cell-free system for predicting the cellular activity of an agent comprising:
 - a probe molecule selected from the group consisting of organic dyes, and having a representative ~~spectral characteristic~~ spectrum at a given band of wavelengths;
 - the agent selected from the group consisting of antimicrobial compounds effective against at least one microbe selected from the group consisting of *S. marcescens*, *S. aureus*, *P. aeruginosa*, *C. albicans*, and *F. solani*;
 - a source of light radiation that includes the band of wavelengths;
 - a detector capable of detecting a change in the spectrum that results from formation of an complex comprising the probe molecule and the agent; and
 - data correlating the spectral change with a reduction in the number of live microbes when treated with the agent.
2. (currently amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the agent is not benzalkonium chloride. ~~selected from the group consisting of antimicrobials and preservatives.~~
3. (Cancelled)
4. (currently amended) The system according to claim 3 [1], wherein the probe molecule is Eosin Y.
5. (currently amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the probe molecule is effective to dye Gram positive organisms. ~~acts as a surrogate for a microbial cell membrane.~~
6. (currently amended) The system according to claim 1, further comprising a calibration graph that includes the data. ~~including a calibration graph, whereby information provided by the detector may be analyzed using the calibration graph to predict the activity of the agent.~~
7. (currently amended) The system according to claim 1, further comprising a test vessel that includes a multi-purpose solution comprising the agent ~~wherein the agent is part of a~~

~~composition selected from the group consisting of contact lens care, antibiotic, disinfection, and preservative compositions.~~

8. (currently amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate comprises an ionic complex. ~~A cell-free system for predicting the activity of an antimicrobial agent comprising: a dye molecule; an antimicrobial composition containing the antimicrobial agent; a source of light radiation; and a detector.~~

9. (currently amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the detector is a human eye. ~~8; wherein the dye molecule is Eosin Y.~~

10. (currently amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the agent is polymeric. ~~8; further including a graph of antimicrobial activity versus light absorption that is calibrated for the system.~~

11.-44. (cancelled)